FIG. **6** is a schematic block diagram illustrating the use of messaging servers during the operation of a fax sent via email messaging mode in a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **7** is a schematic block diagram showing the operation of a fax received as email messaging mode in a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **8** is a schematic block diagram illustrating the use of messaging servers during the operation of a fax received as email messaging mode in a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **9**A is a diagram of a standard telephone keypad illustrating the preferred method of using the keypad to send Internet mail addresses in the presently preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **9**B is a diagram of a standard telephone keypad button illustrating the preferred method of using the keypad to send Internet mail addresses in the presently preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **10** is a schematic block diagram showing the operation of a fax presented via web page messaging mode in a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **11** is a schematic block diagram illustrating the use of messaging servers during the operation of a fax presented via web page messaging mode in a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **12** is a schematic block diagram showing the operation of a voice to voice messaging mode in a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **13** is a schematic block diagram illustrating the use of messaging servers during the operation of a voice to voice messaging mode in a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **14** is a schematic block diagram showing the operation of a voice sent via email messaging mode in a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **15** is a schematic block diagram illustrating the use of messaging servers during the operation of a voice sent via email messaging mode in a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **16** is a schematic block diagram showing the operation of a voice presented as web page messaging mode in a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **17** is a schematic block diagram illustrating the use of messaging servers during the operation of a voice presented as web page messaging mode in a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In the following description, a preferred embodiment of the invention is described with regard to preferred process steps and data structures. Those skilled in the art would recognize after perusal of this application that embodiments of the invention can be implemented using circuitry in a microprocessor adapted to the particular process steps and data structures, and that implementation of the process steps and data structures described herein would not require undue experimentation or further invention.

FIG. **1** is a schematic block diagram of a messaging system in a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention.

The present invention provides messaging between disparate messaging interfaces that may employ different messaging formats and that may use different networks. For example as shown in FIG. **1**, the messaging interfaces may include a telephone **110**, a fax machine **112**, an email server **114**, and/or a network terminal **116** such as a personal computer running a messaging application such as an email program or a browser program. The messaging interfaces may be coupled to different networks such as an area network **118**, a telephone network **120**, an intranet, or a switchable network such as the Internet **122**. An area network **118** is defined as any network supporting distributed or centralized computing such as a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), or an intranet. An intranet is defined as a network that links more than one type of network such as a network that links a Novell network and a Windows NT network using an Internet protocol such as the TCP/IP protocol.

FIG. **1** also shows a server **124** or similar computing system that receives delivery information **126** and an incoming message **128** having a content format of a first type, converts the content format of a first type to a processed message having a content format of a second type using the delivery information, provides notification to an intended recipient using the delivery information, and presents the processed message having a content format of a second type to the intended recipient.

The server **124** provides the above by having a first network interface that can support the sending and receiving of messages and delivery information on a network. For example, the first network interface may be a telephone interface **130** which is linked to a first network such as telephone network **120**. A telephone network **120** as used herein includes a public switch telephone network **120** (PSTN), central office (E1, T1, etc.), local private branch exchange (PBX) **132**, cellular network, or any network that supports voice communication and destination addressing typically found in a standard telephone network. As generally known, a standard telephone network supports user terminals that typically include a telephone **110** and a fax machine **112**. The telephone interface **130** is responsible for managing voice and facsimile communication such as answering incoming telephone calls as well as making outgoing calls through the telephone network **120**.

The server **124** also has a second network interface that can support the sending and receiving of a message and delivery information on a network. For example, the second network interface may be an area network interface **136** that is linked to an area network and communicates with an area network server such as email server **114** which is connected to the area network. This permits the server **124** via the area network interface **136** to send and receive email messages from the email server **114** or from area network clients such as personal computers **138** and workstations **140** which typically provide messaging capabilities and graphical user interfaces ("GUI"), as known in the art. The area network interface **136** can also be configured to provide the functions of the email server **114**.

A sender or a recipient may either be a subscriber or non-subscriber and has the option of using any one of the following types of messaging interfaces such as a telephone **110**, fax machine **112**, email messaging program, or a web browser program. The messaging interfaces may be linked to a telephone network **120**, an area network **118**, a remote server **141**, or directly to the Internet **122** through an internet service provider (ISP) using a personal computer **142** having a messaging interface such as a voice, fax, email program **144** or web browser program **146**.

It is presently contemplated that the present invention is not limited to the above types of telecommunications net-